

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 causing a first device to establish a connection with a
 - 3 second device, enabling a data transaction between the first
 - 4 device and the second device;
 - 5 determining if a time-related event has occurred since
 - 6 establishing the connection between the first device and the
 - 7 second device;
 - 8 terminating the connection between the first device and
 - 9 the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the
 - 10 time-related event; and
 - 11 reestablishing a connection between the first device and
 - 12 the second device, enabling another data transaction.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the time-related
- 2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.
- 3 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising setting a
- 4 timer when the connection is established between the first
- 5 device and the second device.
- 6 4. The method of claim 3 in which determining if the
- 7 time-related event has occurred includes determining if the
- 8 timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the

4 connection was established between the first device and the
5 second device.

1 5. The method of claim 1 in which the data transaction
2 includes determining if the second device has data available
3 for transmission across a network to the first device and if
4 data is available, transmitting the data to the first device.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising, if data is
2 not available, terminating the connection between the first
3 device and the second device.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising requesting
2 that the second device complete the data transaction before
3 determining if the time-related event has occurred since
4 establishing the connection between the first device and the
5 second device.

1 8. The method of claim 7 in which requesting that the
2 second device complete the data transaction includes
3 requesting that the second device delete data.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the
2 time-related event has not occurred, determining if the second
3 device has data available for transmission to the first
4 device.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising
2 establishing a connection across a network between the first
3 device and the second device.

1 11. An article comprising:
2 a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable
3 instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

4 cause a first device to establish a connection with
5 a second device, enabling a data transaction with the second
6 device;

7 determine if a time-related event has occurred since
8 establishing the connection between the first device and the
9 second device;

10 terminate the connection between the first device
11 and the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the
12 time-related event; and

13 reestablish a connection between the first device
14 and the second device, enabling another data transaction.

1 12. The article of claim 11 in which the time-related
2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

1 13. The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to
2 set a timer when the connection is established between the
3 first device and the second device.

1 14. The article of claim 13 in which determining if the
2 time-related event has occurred includes determining if the
3 timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the
4 connection was established between the first device and the
5 second device.

1 15. The article of claim 11 in which the data
2 transaction includes determining if the second device has data
3 available for transmission across a network to the first
4 device and if data is available, transmitting the data to the
5 first device.

1 16. The article of claim 15 further causing a machine
2 to, if data is not available, terminate the connection between
3 the first device and the second device.

1 17. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to
2 request that the second device complete the data transaction
3 before determining if the time-related event has occurred
4 since establishing the connection between the first device and
5 the second device.

1 18. The article of claim 11 in which requesting that the
2 second device complete the data transaction includes
3 requesting that the second device delete data.

1 19. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine
2 to, if the time-related event has not occurred, determine if
3 the second device has data available for transmission to the
4 first device.

1 20. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to
2 establish a connection across a network between the first
3 device and the second device.

1 21. An apparatus comprising:
2 a first device configured to connect to a network;
3 an application accessible by the first device and
4 configured to communicate with a second device configured to
5 connect to the network; and
6 a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured
7 to, after the first device completes a data-related
8 transaction with the second device across the network,
9 determine if a time-related event has occurred since the first
10 device established a connection with the second device and if
11 so, trigger the termination of the connection.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the time-related
2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is
2 also configured to start a timer when the first device

3 establishes a connection with the second device and to check
4 the timer to determine if the time-related event has occurred
5 since the first device established the connection with the
6 second device.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is
2 also configured to trigger establishment of a new connection
3 between the first device and the second device after the
4 connection is terminated.

1 25. A system comprising:
2 a server device configured to connect to a network and to
3 store data;

4 a client device configured to connect to the network and
5 to retrieve data stored at the server device; and

6 a mechanism accessible by the client device and
7 configured to, after the client device has retrieved data
8 stored at the server device, determine if a time-related event
9 has occurred since the client device established a connection
10 with the server device and if so, trigger the termination of
11 the connection.

1 26. The system of claim 25 in which the data includes an
2 electronic mail message.

1 27. The system of claim 25 in which the network includes
2 the Internet.

1 28. The system of claim 25 further comprising a
2 mechanism accessible by the server device and configured to,
3 after the connection is terminated, delete the data retrieved
4 by the client device.

1 29. The system of claim 25 in which the mechanism
2 accessible by the client device is also configured to trigger
3 establishment of a new connection between the client device
4 and the server device after the connection is terminated.